

CLAIMS

1. A securing mechanism for securing a pair of free ends of a suture,  
comprising:

a first interlocking member; and

a second interlocking member operable of mating with said first interlocking

5 member,

wherein the first and second interlocking members provide

a first position for capturing the suture ends,

a second position for guiding and aligning the suture ends to a preferred  
location along a tortuous path within and between the first and second interlocking

10 members, and

a third position for frictionally engaging the suture ends to provide secure  
entrapment of the suture, and

wherein each of said interlocking members has

at least one protrusion and at least one mating hole, and

15 a standing portion and a mating window.

2. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the protrusions are cylindrical  
and are sized and configured to match opposing mating holes.

3. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the protrusions further comprise barbs or have increased end diameters to engage opposing mating holes in a fixed relationship when fully mated.

4. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the mating windows are sized and configured to receive opposing standing portions.

5. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the standing portions and mating windows are sized and configured to engage and confine the suture ends.

6. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the assembly of the interlocking members may be advanced, retracted or adjusted along the length of the suture.

7. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the standing portions further comprise locking or latching features.

8. The securing mechanism of Claim 7, wherein the mating windows further comprise receiving portions to mate with the locking features of the standing portions.

9. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the interlocking members are formed of plastics of the same genus as the suture.

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10. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the interlocking members are formed of metal.

11. The securing mechanism of Claim 10, wherein the metal includes stainless steel, titanium, silver, gold and aluminum.

12. The securing mechanism of Claim 10, wherein the metal is malleable.

13. The securing mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the interlocking members are formed of plastic and metal.

14. A securing mechanism for securing a pair of free ends of a suture, comprising:

a first substantially flat form component having a length and a width, each end associated with the length comprising a pair of end extensions and a recessed portion,  
5 and at least one of the faces of the first component has a traction-enhancing feature to engage the suture;

a second substantially flat form component operable of mating with said first component having a length and a width, each end associated with the length comprising a pair of elongate extensions and a recessed central region, wherein the  
10 elongate extensions are sized and configured to fit between the end extensions and

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recessed portions of the first component when the elongate extensions of the second component are folded over the first component,

wherein the first and second components provide

a first position for capturing the suture ends,

15 a second position for guiding and aligning the suture ends to a preferred location within and between the first and second components, and

a third position for frictionally engaging the suture ends to provide secure entrapment of the suture.

15. The securing mechanism of Claim 14, wherein at least one of the faces of the second component has a traction-enhancing feature to engage the suture.

16. The securing mechanism of Claim 15, wherein the faces of the first and second components having traction-enhancing features are opposed to one another.

17. The securing mechanism of Claim 14, wherein in the folded condition, the recessed central regions of the second component provide an exit path for the suture entrapped between the faces of the first and second components.

18. The securing mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the recessed central regions of the second component provide rounded material edges so as not to abrade or damage the suture material.

19. The securing mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the traction-enhancing feature is a raised crosscut pattern above the general surface of the first component.

20. The securing mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the traction-enhancing feature comprises a surface resembling the face of a "double-cut" flat file.

21. The securing mechanism of Claim 14, wherein the first and second members are formed of at least one of metal and plastic.